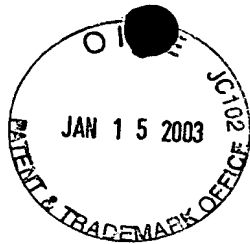


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
YOSHIO SUGAYA ET AL : EXAMINER: ZITOMER, F.
SERIAL NO: 09/909,898 :
FILED: JULY 23, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1713
FOR: ANION EXCHANGE :
MEMBRANE, PROCESS FOR ITS
PRODUCTION AND SOLUTION
TREATING APPARATUS

"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1713"

#70
1/24/03

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Rejection of October 24, 2002, please consider the following.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-12 are in the case.

The Examiner withdraws his rejection of the claims based on double patenting in view of Applicants' arguments. However, he adheres to his rejection of the claims over the art of record, with regard to Claim 10 additionally relying on further references.

Specifically, Claims 1-4, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terada et al (U.S. 5,759,373) taken with Tomoi et al (U.S. 5,350,523).



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OBLON
SPIVAK
McCLELLAND
MAIER & NEUSTADT
P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/909,898

Applicants: Yoshio SUGAYA, et al.

Filing Date: July 23, 2001

For: ANION EXCHANGE MEMBRANE, PROCESS FOR
ITS PRODUCTION AND SOLUTION TREATING
APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 1713

Examiner: Zitomer

"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1713"

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response Under 37 C.F.R § 1.116

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618



22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Samuel H. Blech
Registration No. 32,082